

Message Text

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12
ACTION VO-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 CU-02 LAB-01 SIL-01 SSO-00 INR-05

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O 211110Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7982
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 2137

PASS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND CU/VIP/V

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, CVIS, OEXC, FI (NYSTROM, EERO KALEVI)
SUBJECT: NORDIC METALWORKERS TO DECIDE RESPONSE TO
POSSIBLE NYSTROM VISA REFUSAL AT OSLO
MEETING

REF: (A) HELSINKI 2021 (B) STOCKHOLM 4540

1. FINNISH METALWORKERS TOLD EMBASSY LABATT THIS
MORNING (OCTOBER 21) THAT NORDIC METALWORKERS
SECRETARIAT WILL DECIDE AT OSLO MEETING TONIGHT
WHETHER OR NOT THEY WILL GO THROUGH WITH PLANNED
US TRIP IF COMMUNIST MEMBER OF DELEGATION FROM
FINLAND IS REFUSED VISA. FINNISH METALWORKERS
CHAIRMAN SULO PENTTILA FLYING TO OSLO THIS AFTERNOON.

2. BACKGROUND: NORDIC METALWORKERS IN STOCKHOLM
RECEIVED TELEX FROM COLLIN GONZE, OF UAR INTER-
NATIONAL DEPARTMENT, ON OCTOBER 18, INFORMING THEM
THAT "AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT REFUSING
NYSTROM VISA ALTHOUGH ALL IMF AFFILIATES AGREE TO
WAIVE NORMAL REQUIREMENTS." GONZE ADDED THAT "UAW
MAKING IMMEDIATE, DIRECT AND STRONG PROTEST AT
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HIGHEST LEVEL BUT WISH TO TELL YOU SITUATION DOES

NOT LOOK GOOD." CONTENTS OF THIS MESSAGE RELAYED TO MEETING IN OSLO WHERE MANY OF TRIP PARTICIPANTS GATHERED. RECEIPT OF MESSAGE IN OSLO PROMPTED IMMEDIATE TELEPHONE CALL TO LABATT FROM FINNISH METALWORKERS SECRETARY YRJONEN WHO ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION THAT VISA HAD BEEN REFUSED. LABATT TOLD YRJONEN EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS AND VISA APPLICATION STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION. YRJONEN REPORTED OSLO MEETING AGITATED AT NEWS AND OF OPINION THAT SCANDINAVIAN DELEGATION SHOULD BE ACCEPTED IN TOTO, OR NOT AT ALL.

3. WHILE WE CANNOT PRESUME TO SPEAK FOR OTHER INTERESTED POSTS, WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT REFUSAL OF NYSTROM VISA WILL SOUR US RELATIONS WITH IMPORTANT AND INFLUENTIAL LABOR GROUPINGS IN NORTHERN EUROPE. ADVERSE PRESS PLAY IN FINLAND ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE INTENSE. WE NOTE RECENT CRITICISM IN LEADING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC NEWSPAPER OF US VISA POLICY FOR REFUSING TO ALLOW COMMUNIST TRADE UNION MEMBERS CHILEAN "SOLIDARITY DELEGATION" TO VISIT UN (HELSINKI USIAC 1742 AND USINFO 1745). KREHBIEL

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